

REMARKS

The Office communication mailed April 6, 2007 has been received and reviewed. The application is to be amended as previously set forth in an effort to conform the claims more closely to U.S. practice. All amendments and claim cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

The Office communication entered a twenty-four way restriction requirement.

Applicants provisionally elect Group XII (*i.e.*, claims 16, 30, 33, 34, and 35) with traverse. Consistent with the provisional election, withdrawn claims 2 through 11 and 17 through 26 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 32 and 36 have also been amended for consideration of rejoinder.

The reason for applicants' traversal is that Group I (containing claims 1, 12 through 15, 31, and 37) should also be included in the examination since these claims are linked by a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Applicants' position in this regard is supported by the International Search Report already issued in this case (*see, e.g.*, WO 03/058248 A3, which already forms part of the Office record) where claims of both Group XII and Group I (*i.e.*, claims 1, 16 (complete), 12-15, and 27-37 (partial) were searched together. Applicants thus respectfully request that Group I also be examined with provisionally elected Group XII.

If questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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